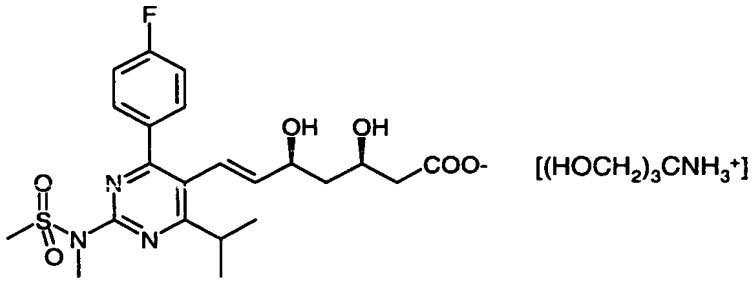
Claims

1. A crystalline form of the compound tris(hydroxymethyl)methylammonium salt of (E)-7-[4-(4-fluorophenyl)-6-isopropyl-2-[methyl(methylsulfonyl)amino]pyrimidin-5-yl]-(3R,5S)-3,5-dihydroxyhept-6-enoic acid of the formula (I) having an X-ray powder diffraction pattern with specific peaks at 2-theta = 3.2, 6.3, 9.5 and 11.0.



(I)

2. A crystalline form as claimed in Claim 1 having an X-ray powder diffraction pattern with specific peaks at 2-theta = 3.2, 6.3, 9.5, 11.0, 12.0, 12.4, 13.9 and 21.5.

3. A crystalline form as claimed in Claim 1 having an X-ray powder diffraction pattern with specific peaks at 2-theta = 3.2, 6.3, 9.5, 11.0, 12.0, 12.4, 13.9, 15.8, 21.5, 22.7, 23.6 and 24.9.

4. A crystalline form of the compound tris(hydroxymethyl)methylammonium salt of (E)-7-[4-(4-fluorophenyl)-6-isopropyl-2-[methyl(methylsulfonyl)amino]pyrimidin-5-yl]-(3R,5S)-3,5-dihydroxyhept-6-enoic acid having an X-ray powder diffraction pattern with specific peaks at 2-theta = 6.9 and 13.1.

5. A crystalline form as claimed in Claim 4 having an X-ray powder diffraction pattern with specific peaks at 2-theta = 6.9, 13.1, 14.9 and 20.6.

6. A crystalline form as claimed in Claim 4 having an X-ray powder diffraction pattern with specific peaks at 2-theta = 6.9, 8.5, 9.0, 13.1, 14.9, 17.2, 18.2, 18.6, 19.0, 19.4, 20.6 and 25.4.

5. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a crystalline form as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

6. A process for the manufacture of a pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 5 which comprises admixing a crystalline form as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 4 together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

7. The use of a crystalline form as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 4 in the manufacture of a medicament.

8. A method of treating a disease condition wherein inhibition of HMG CoA reductase is beneficial which comprises administering to a warm-blooded mammal an effective amount of a crystalline form as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 4.

9. A process for the manufacture of a crystalline form as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 4 which comprises forming crystals by:
a) slurrying a sample of amorphous tris(hydroxymethyl)methylammonium salt (1) in an organic solvent at a temperature below ambient temperature;
b) filtration of the resultant mixture; and
c) drying of the resultant product as necessary.

10. A process as claimed in Claim 9 for the manufacture of Form 2 wherein the organic solvent is acetonitrile, ethyl acetate or MTBE (methylt-butylether).

11. A process for the manufacture of a crystalline form as claimed in Claim 9 for the manufacture of Form 3 wherein the organic solvent is isopropanol.

12. A process as claimed in any one of Claims 9 to 11 wherein the temperature is about 0°C.